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Summary record of the 40th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 4 December 2002, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Suazo ..... (Honduras)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

Agenda item 87: Environment and sustainable development (*continued*) (A/C.2/57/L.16 and L.54)

(b) International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (*continued*)

Draft resolutions on international cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon (A/C.2/57/L.16 and L.54)

1. **Mr. Kára** (Czech Republic), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.54, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.16.

2. **Mr. Niño Gómez** (Venezuela), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, announced several minor revisions to the third preambular paragraph.

3. *Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.54, as orally revised, was adopted.*

4. *Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.16 was withdrawn.*

Agenda item 88: Operational activities for development (*continued*) (A/C.2/57/L.26 and L.53)

Draft resolutions on economic and technical cooperation among developing countries (A/C.2/57/L.26 and L.53)

5. **Mr. van der Pluijm** (Belgium), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.53, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.26. He announced a minor editorial revision to paragraph 10.

6. *Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.53, as orally revised, was adopted.*

7. *Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.26 was withdrawn.*

Announcement concerning sponsorship of draft resolutions

8. **The Chairman** announced that Mongolia had become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.41, submitted under agenda item 87; Indonesia had become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.45, submitted under agenda item 87 (a); Indonesia and Mongolia had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.47, submitted under agenda item 87 (c); and Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Malta, the Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.49, submitted under agenda item 86.

Organization of work

9. **The Chairman** said he deeply regretted, in view of the additional costs entailed, that the Committee would have to ask for an extension in order to conclude its work, since the bulk of the draft resolutions proposed had not yet been dealt with. He would urge members to exert their best efforts to utilize the extra time well and to make full use the rooms that had been made available to them after 6 p.m. each day. He hoped that the initiative of the President of the General Assembly to review the working methods of the Committee would result in recommendations to prevent a repetition of the situation during the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

10. **Mr. Traub** (United States of America) said that, while accepting with reluctance the need for a short extension, his delegation felt that any further extensions should be discussed, in each case, at a formal meeting of the Committee. Before his delegation could take a position on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.17 on desertification and draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.43 on climate, it would need to see the statements of programme budget implications. Moreover, it had requested that a representative of the Secretariat should be present at a Committee meeting to answer questions about financial aspects.

11. **Mr. Niño Gómez** (Venezuela), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that completion of work on some items also awaited the re-issuance of the report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (A/CONF.199/20).

12. **Ms. Kelley** (Secretary of the Committee) said that statements of programme budget implications on the draft resolutions mentioned would be ready in all official languages the next morning and the re-issued report on the World Summit would be published the following Monday. A representative of the Programme Planning and Budget Division stood ready to answer questions on financial aspects at an informal meeting of the Committee.

13. **Mr. Niño Gómez** (Venezuela), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, supported by

Mr. Traub (United States of America), said that the request, made earlier in the session and recently reiterated, had been for a representative of the Secretariat to be present at a formal meeting.

14. **The Chairman** said that the request would be conveyed to the Secretariat.

The meeting rose at 4 p.m.